the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments and taking appropriate steps to remove the bottlenecks if any; structural reorganisation like formation of holding companies; technology upgradation; modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment; adoption of improved maintenance practices; inventory control; product diversification and improvement in product mix, training and retraining of personnel; emphasis on cost control and cost reduction and workers' participation in Management.

Unfair Trade Practices by Firms and Companies

4503. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names and particulars of firms and companies involved in unfair trade practices during the last three years; and

(b) what are the details of action taken by Government against such firms and companies ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b) During the period from 1-1-1985 to 31-12-1987 the M.R.T.P. Commission had instituted a very large number of enquiries against various persons including companies; firms and sole traders for indulging in unfair trade practices under the MRTP Act, 1969. The time and effort involved in the compilation of details of these cases including the action taken by the Commission will not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

L.P.G. agencies allotted to Muslims and Harijans in Uttar Pradesh

4504. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dealerships/agencies for LPG, petrol pumps and kerosene of the Indian Oil Corporation and other oil companies allotted during the period from January 1987 to March 31, 1988 under the reserved and general categories in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of applications called for in 1986 which are still pending for decision and by when such cases will be cleared; and

(c) the number of agencies and dealerships allotted to Harijans, Muslims and other minorities during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) The oil industry has allotted the following distributorships/dealerships during the period from1-1-1987 to 31-3-1988 in Uttar Pradesh :

Name of the Product	Total no. of distributorships/ dealerships	Total out of Col (2) allotted to SC/ST category
L.P.G.	21	5
Petrol/Diesel	51	22
Kerosene	10	2

(b) while no application were called for the allotment of LPG distributorship during 1986, applications for a total of 18 Retail Outlet and 15 SKO LDO dealership were called for during that year out of which six dealerships each for petrol/diesel Retail Outlets, Kerosene agencies were pending finalisation as on July 31, 1988. As various steps precede the actual commissioning of a distributorship/dealership, it is not feasible to indicate the exact time by which these would be commissioned;

(c) except for a reservation of 25% for SC/ST category, there is no separate reservation for Muslims or minorities in the allotment of distributorships/dealerships for LPG, Petrol/Diesel and Kerosene. Hence no statistics on them are maintained.

Requirement of L.P.G. Cylinders

4505. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the approximate requirement of Gas cylinders by oil companies in the country at present :

(b) whether Government are aware that gas cylinders produced by the factories situated in 'No Industry Districts' are cheaper in comparison to those produced in other sectors;

(c) if so whether Government are giving any preference to the factories situated in 'No Industry Districts' while placing orders;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any memorandum in this regard had been received by Government in the past and if so, what action has been taken thereon;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) The oil industry's requirement of LPG cylinders for the year 1988-89 is approx. 25 lakhs;

(b) to (e) The basic price of LPG cylinders is common to all cylinder manufacturers; the final price of cylinders, however, may vary marginally on account of sales tax exemption/loan facilities extended by the State Governments to the units situated in 'No Industry Districts'. While representations have been received from a few cylinder manufacturers in this regard, orders for cylinders are being placed by the oil industry with the various cylinder manufacturers, keeping in view the overall production capacity available in this sector as well as the oil industry's requirement.

Privatisation of Loss-incurring Public Sector Units

4506. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a final decision to privatise inefficient public sector units which are continuously incurring losses;